

Editorially

Strictly Democratic cannot be side-tracked; opposes all class and vicious legislation.

Mt. Sterling Advocate.

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NATIONAL POLITICS

Democrats Throw About Republicans in a Mess.

A special from Washington says: Both political parties are now beginning to play politics in the new legislation that is being presented for the consideration of the short session of the 57th Congress. The Democrats are shooting straight at the mark and the Republicans are dodging and hedging as is usually the case with them when any question comes up for consideration that will put them on record.

The Democrats threw a bomb into their camp very recently during the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. Representative Bartlett of Georgia offered an amendment to the bill inserting an appropriation of \$250,000 for the purpose of enforcing the Sherman anti-trust law. This move on the part of the Democrats was wholly unexpected by the Republicans and completely knocked them off their feet. It was amusing to watch their antics. They first stared at each other in blank amazement and then rushed wildly around for a hasty consultation with the leaders of the party. It was at first decided to rule out the amendment on a point of order that it was new legislation and, therefore not germane to the bill, but the level-headed old foxes knew that it would be the worst politics in the world to go before the country in opposition to the enforcement of the anti-trust laws, so they took another track. They dug up the "Pete" Hepburn bill which appropriated double the amount, but which is much milder in tone and is intended to give the trusts as little trouble as possible, and substituted that for the Bartlett amendment. It was a bitter pill for the Republicans to swallow and they made a wry face over the dose administered by the Democrats, for they had intended to allow the Hepburn bill to die a natural death in the committee as it had been offered in the first place simply as a bluff and to fool the people into believing that they were trying to do something to curb the rapacity of the trusts, but the Democrats called their bluff and compelled them to show their hands. Mr. Bartlett tried in vain to get Mr. Hepburn to insert in his bill, which the Republicans adopted as a substitute to the Bartlett amendment, a provision instructing the Attorney-General to proceed at once to the prosecution of all trusts and unlawful combinations of capital in restraint of trade.

It was no go, the Republicans absolutely refused to tell the Attorney-General to do anything. Judging the future by the past the Attorney-General will be afflicted with the same masterly inactivity concerning trust prosecution and the bill passed by the Republican House will have about as much effect on the trusts as water on a duck's back.

That is the way the people of this country are constantly deceived by the Republicans in the Congress of the Nation. The people are made to believe that the Republicans are doing something in their interest by a great display and much wind-jamming in the Republican press of the country over the passage of such so-called anti-trust legislation as is contained in this Hepburn bill, when in truth it is as harmless as a bread pill. The trusts still enjoy the tariff pad over their backs and the pounding does not hurt them a particle. The Republicans always treat symptoms, but never touch the disease. They have tried every remedy, or rather they have sug-

gested every remedy as a cure for the trust evil known to the political pharmacopoeia and none has answered the purpose. The trusts have continued to grow and flourish like chinch bugs in a corn field and have overrun and overridden the entire field of commercial endeavor until the small merchant is a mere serf and chattel with which they play battledoor and shuttlecock, and the man who earns a living by the sweat of his brow pays the freight. The Republican President first suggested publicity as a remedy. That remedy was offered by a Democrat Senator as an amendment to a bill in the Senate at the last session of Congress, and was promptly mashed in the earth by a Republican majority. Then they talked of a Constitutional amendment and of a tariff commission. All of them have been cast aside for the present makeshift and now they will prate about how they are trying to break up the trusts. It is all hypocrisy, false pretense and rot. How much longer will the people be blind to the facts in the case?

The Republican party gradually is coming to the Democratic contention that we should have free trade with the recently acquired island possessions that came to us as a heritage of the war with Spain. Two years ago they passed a bill that gave the Philippines a reduction of twenty-five per cent. from the rates of the Dingley tariff bill on all goods imported from this country. It was the Democratic position then that if those islands were a part of this country, although they could not be held Constitutionally as a province, they should be given the same privileges of trade that we enjoyed here between the States, and that the real secret of the greatness of this country was on account of free and untrammelled trade between the States. The Democratic position has not changed.

The Republican position has changed. That party is essentially a party of opportunists. It shifts with the winds of public clamor and opinion. It has no fixed principles. It has policies only.

The Republican majority of the House Committee on Ways and Means has brought in a bill to reduce the tariff on all imports into the Philippines seventy-five per cent. from the rates imposed by the Dingley tariff bill, instead of twenty-five per cent. which is the present law passed by themselves two years ago. They now think those islands would be benefited by this reduction. If twenty-five per cent. was good for them why not seventy-five per cent.? If that is a good thing why not absolute free trade as contended by the Democrats?

The Democrats will make the fight for free trade with those islands and will put the Republicans on record and there will be much of good reading on the tariff question which will be the bone of contention in the next great battle before the people.

Let us hope that the eyes of the good people will have been opened by that time and that they will know their own interests when they go to the polls. Hypocrisy cannot triumph always.

Politics aside for the moment, the readers of the MT. STERLING ADVOCATE may like to know something of the kind of people who make the laws of the country in the National Capitol. They really are very different from the popular conception of them.

The personal and individual characteristics of our National legislative body is fast transforming itself: at present it is in a chrysalis state, putting off the old and

putting on the new. The time was, and not so long ago, when eloquence and high spun theories were considered the supreme qualifications and chief requisites of a statesman. Today efficiency and industry guided by wisdom and common sense is the sure and certain road to political success. The star of academic statesmanship is fading from the National view, just as the learned rhetoric of the demagogue has given place to business methods in affairs of state. Some of the old-time partisans deplore the change, while men of action who are in tune with the spirit of the times recognize it as the logic of events and a result of the natural laws of evolution. Blind partisan speeches, even though couched in fascinating diction command but little attention and less respect. There are still a few of the Roscoe Conklinges and Caleb Cushings left in both branches of Congress but their power is diminished and their influence greatly minimized.

The real characters who govern and control affairs are what may be termed the "draft horses" of both the Senate and the House. Take for instance Allison, Aldridge, Hale and Frye in the Senate, not one of whom has ever been accused of "playing to the galleries," or indulging in classical essays for the edification of the public; yet, under a Republican Administration no legislation could pass the Senate without their sanction. If the Senate were Democratic the same class of men, with different political views, would still control. In the House of Representatives such men as Payne, Dazell, Joe Cannon and their type rule the roost. If one of these ever laid claim to oratorical powers they have never manifested it during their long careers in public life.

Few men of unusual eloquence, and with a tendency toward word painting and phrase making, remain long in public life. This class of men do not as a rule take kindly to the labor and hard work of the committee room, and their temperament is not productive of the type of man who is a constant attendant at the sessions of Congress, watching closely the details of legislation. Hence, they accomplish but little of practical good for either their constituents or their country. They are like the comets that illuminate the empyreum of eloquence, and dazzle the benighted for a short space of time.

Some of the strongest men in public life are not the product of the colleges, but have acquired their wisdom and ability in the great school of necessity, and the university of experience. Brain and brawn, industry and intelligence, economic wisdom combined with a broad comprehension of our Nation's necessities, and a just consideration for the rights of the people as distinguished from the privileges of the classes, are now and will continue to be the elements of character that designate the statesman from the politician.

Prosperous Year.

Bradstreet's annual review of business conditions show that the year has been prosperous despite strikes, tight money and only one-half of the usual volume of speculative transactions in Wall street. According to the review, the chief feature of the year has been the enormous expansion of the home market.

"It may be easy to fall"—everybody says it is,—but the hardest work I ever saw a man do was from the moment he slipped on the pavement until he lay prone upon the ground and looked around with a foolish grin to see if anybody was looking.

PERSONAL SKETCHES.

NIMROD A. WILLS.

Nimrod A. Wills and niece, Mrs. Kitty Anderson, of near Frenchburg, Menifee county, Ky., are here visiting the family of his son, Major Peter E. Wills, the Elizabeth town wine merchant. The venerable gentleman is now past 82 years of age and one of the sturdy pioneers of old Kentucky, where he was born and reared, and where he has lived most of these long years. He is still hale and hearty and gets about exceedingly well. He left his Kentucky home nearly two months ago, accompanied by his niece, and has been visiting his children and their descendants since, in various parts of the country, coming here Thursday from Kay county, Oklahoma, and is spending a short while with Mrs. K. D. H. Reap, east Fifth St., his grand-daughter.

Nimrod A. Wills was born Dec. 10, 1820, in Wolfe county, Kentucky, in a little log hut that stood on the identical spot where the courthouse now stands, in Camp-ton, the county seat of Wolfe county.

About one year after his birth, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Wills, moved to Clark county, near Winchester, where they lived about two years, then moved back to Montgomery county. All three of these counties, Montgomery, Clarke and Wolfe, lie together and Menifee county has since been made, carved out of Montgomery, Bath and Wolfe counties.

James Wills established a way-side inn, seven miles west of Frenchburg, on the old state road from Mt. Sterling to Pound Gap, Virginia, in the Cumberland mountains, midway from Cincinnati, and 145 miles from either, almost in the center of the State of Kentucky.

The inn established by his father was known as Travelers' Rest, and was the stopping place of hundreds of weary travelers as they journeyed east and west across this long stretch of country overland, there then being no other modes of travel in this section of the country.

Nimrod Wills was married to Miss Lettie Stevens, and bought a farm near his father's home and by energy and industry grew quite well off, but after a while lost all he had by going security and by the ravages of war. Now again, however, he, since the death of his parents, has bought up the other children's shares in the old family homestead, where he has lived for many years and where he expects to spend the remainder of his life.

He still lives in the old way-side inn kept by his father, built near 70 years ago. The old sign, erected by his father when the house was built, bearing the words,

"Travelers' Rest,
by
James Wills,"

still hangs on the post in front. Of course the inn is not such a place of public resort as in pioneer days, as there are now plenty other more convenient modes of travel. Many travelers, though, still make this their stopping point, and Mr. Wills keeps all who apply and never makes any charge, and has become known in the locality as "Nim Divide"—as his motto seems to be to divide anything he possesses with his fellowman, being of such a generous nature.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Nimrod Wills, five of whom are still living.

Major Peter E. Wills, Elizabeth-town, aged nearly 60 years. Aletha A. Wills died at Paris Ill., 14 years ago.

James S. Wills, who formerly resided here, died here 12 years ago. Catherine, wife of Robert Riddle,

who formerly resided here, but now resides in Battle Creek, Mich. Her husband died January 13, eighteen years ago.

John A. Wills, Kay county, Oklahoma, who is one of the wealthiest men, and largest farmers and stock raisers and dealers in this new state.

Narcisus, married to James Reid, at Paris, Illinois, and moved to Kansas City, Mo., where Mr. Reid died, the widow still living there.

George Wills died when three years of age, 45 years ago at the old family home in Kentucky.

The wife and mother died at Cynthiana, Ky., in 1869, while Mr. and Mrs. Wills were living temporarily with their son, James, just after the close of the rebellion.

Mr. Wills was again married, five years later, to Catherine Spencer August 21, 1873, in Wolfe county, Ky., near the old family home. To this union was born two children.

Mollie Wills, who married Jas. T. Wills, of Terre Haute, where they now reside.

Henry G. Wills, aged 22, who is unmarried and still lives with his venerable parents.

Nimrod Wills has been engaged all his life, generally in farming and for 13 years held the office of county assessor and tax collector. He has always been a Democrat, his first presidential vote being for Jas. K. Polk, and he has voted for every democratic candidate since and for Bryan twice.

During the rebellion things grew so hot in his section that his father's family and his had to move into Virginia taking with them 13 slaves, where he and such of his boys as were old enough went into the Confederate army. He was given a position in the commissary department under old General Cero Gordo Williams and Humphrey Marshal and was with the regiment when it surrendered to Col. True at Mt. Sterling, Ky., September 20, 1865. All of his sons were in the Confederate army, as well as himself.

His grandfather, Wm. Wills, was a pioneer native of Halifax, Court-house, Virginia, and fought under General Jackson in the battle of New Orleans, and his sword which he carried to the possession of James, and then to the grandson, Nimrod, the subject of the sketch, who still has it. It has been a custom handed down from the grandfather to son and grandson to frequently keep this sword in reverence by laying it under their pillows when sleeping, and at the death of both the father and son the sword lay under their pillows when summoned to their long home, and so it will be with the subject of this sketch, after which this historic heirloom will fall to the possession of Major P. E. Wills, the eldest child. Another old family relic is a hickory cane, also carried by Wm. Wills when under General Jackson, but now in the possession of Ed. Wills.

Mr. Wills has seven living grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Gordon Wills Reap, little son of Mr. and Mrs. K. D. H. Reap, of this city.

Mr. Wills is an entertaining talker and has a fund of reminiscences of early day pioneer life.

This

Space

Belongs

to

J.C. ENOCH.

Wait

and

you'll

find

out what

this Means

when they had to grind their corn meal by hand, tanned leather for shoes by hand, and used flax brakes to manufacture material for clothing.

He says in those early days wild game of all kinds was plentiful, and that his father had often killed as high as ten deer at once, and loaded their carcasses on a wagon and hauled them to Lexington to sell them, taking back a load of goods in return.—Columbus (Ind.) Daily Times.

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A. W. SUTTON, Mt. Sterling, Ky.